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CLINICAL CRIMINOLOGY

Eighty-six members of this group received instruction in the trades during their reformatory terms. Of this number, but twenty-nine worked at their trades while on parole, and of these only seven were unable to hold their positions on account of lack of experience. Lack of ability and concentration of effort and purpose alone seemed to prevent others from working at their trades also. Elsewhere in this report it is shown that these paroled prisoners suffered no lack of opportunity to work steadily at some honest occupation. But of these one hundred violators of parole only twenty-six held but one job while on parole; for how long, we are not informed. Of the remainder, twenty-seven changed once or several times because they did not like their work; fifteen, because of low wages; eleven, because the work was too hard; six because of laziness; eight, in response to the "hobo" instinct; one, because he was not allowed to smoke during working hours, etc. All this suggests instability of character; lack of that best part of all habits—the habit of work—as the largest factor in determining occupational shiftiness. It is worth noticing that of these one hundred cases, sixty-one, during their parole, enjoyed the aid of a home with parents or other relations which probably to some extent relieved them of the strain of life and placed them in a situation in which reasonably well established habits of industry should have gone a long way toward effecting social adjustment.

No doubt, excepting in the case of pronounced mental deficiency, we have here only proximate causes of parole violation. But even so, they emphasize the direction in which our social needs are located: the early diagnosis and segregation of hopeless persons, and the training of the remainder in habits of industry. The latter is not to be accomplished by one means alone. There is no room in our generation for blind tradition in education. While we keep our eyes open toward the less conventional agencies and adapt them from time to time we must suffer no relaxation at any point along the line.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

CLINICAL CRIMINOLOGY.

One of the interesting developments of these years is to be found in prison and reformatory schools. From time to time in this JOURNAL we have taken notice of institutions of this character—their courses of study, methods, etc. In the present issue we publish an article by Mr. A. C. Hill, author of a pamphlet on "Prison Schools," published recently as a bulletin from the National Bureau of Education. Other articles setting forth results of specific research in this special educa-

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tional activity have been arranged for. We drew attention in our last November issue to the organization of a section for the clinical study of criminology in the American Prison Association. In the development of the laboratory idea in the Municipal Courts of Boston and Chicago, and no doubt, in divers other ways within a year past substantial forward steps have been taken in the direction of developing and utilizing that portion of the scientific basis of criminology already laid.

American universities will not be slow in taking up the promotion of knowledge within this field, and the training of those who are to do the practical work will go on apace. Northwestern University offers a three hour semestral course in which the subject is approached from the psychological angle. New York University presents such a course during the summer session, and from the medico-psychological side it has been set forth during the last two summer sessions at Harvard. The University of Pennsylvania Bulletin for February, 1914, announces "Training Courses in Experimental, Educational and Social Psychology for (among others) Social Workers in Clinical Criminology." This work is under the direction of Dr. Lightner Witmer, professor of psychology, and director of the psychological clinic at that university. Professor Witmer, throughout practically all of his professional career, has been contributing to our knowledge of mental subnormality and incidentally of delinquency. His graduate students, now and then, have aimed primarily at the study of delinquency under his direction. It is, therefore, no new step of Professor Witmer's when he makes the following announcement, in the bulletin referred to, of summer school opportunities at the University of Pennsylvania:

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"The equipment of juvenile courts with probation departments which are practically social service departments, and the demand which is being made by reform schools, even by reformatories and penitentiaries, for competently trained research workers, open up new fields for social work, in what may be called clinical criminology. This work requires a scientific analysis of the personality and conduct of adolescents and adults. The initial difficulties of the psychological analysis involved in such investigations render absolutely indispensable a thoroughgoing training in the principles and methods of modern psychology. A training course for social workers directed to moral causes, especially to juvenile delinquents, offers exceptional opportunity for training this type of social

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worker. The career of social workers in criminal psychology will be found as probation officers in connection with juvenile courts, as probationary visitors where the suspended sentence or the indeterminate sentence is a feature of criminal procedure, or as resident researchers in reform schools and reformatories. Many of these institutions are beginning to add to their staff assistants who have been trained along psychological lines."

ROBERT H. GAULT.

STERILIZATION AND CRIMINAL HEREDITY.

The question of sterilization has been up for discussion repeatedly in the pages of this JOURNAL within the last year. But so far every writer has limited himself to the operation as mere punishment for deterrence or as a means for preventing criminal heredity. They have been justified perhaps in so limiting themselves; for with such books as Davenport's *Heredity in Relation to Eugenics* and Kellicott's *Social Direction of Human Evolution*, and with such decisions as occurred in the Washington case, and with such blatant legislation as the sterilization act in New Jersey or the bill introduced at the last Illinois legislature, the impression has gone out that direct inheritance of criminality has been *proved* (see the preambles to practically all the sterilization laws so far passed). The critics of such legislation are right in asserting that criminal inheritance remains yet to be proved. They may be wrong, however, in going on to conclude that sterilization is a "cruel and unusual punishment" and of no practical utility. It might conceivably be of considerable value as a preventive measure from the standpoint of reducing irritability, on the analogy of circumcision (proved by Warden Johnson's experiments at Folsom prison). And it is surely within the rights of the state to prevent habitual criminals, insane criminals and defective delinquents from procreating children at all, since they are manifestly unfit for rearing them. It is not germs of criminality we ought to fear, but lack of constructive parental capacity. It would be well if future discussions kept this aspect of the problem clearly in view.

ARTHUR J. TODD.